

Application Number 10/534344
Response to the Office Action dated April 30, 2008

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to limit the catalyst to an activated palladium catalyst; accordingly, claim 2 has been canceled and claims 3 has been amended editorially; and further, claims 5 and 6 have been amended editorially.

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dinh-Nguyen et al. (GB Patent No. 1,103,607). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 requires a deuteration process using an activated palladium catalyst. Dinh-Nguyen, however, discloses only an activated platinum dioxide and fails to disclose the activated palladium catalyst (see coln. 2, lines 59-66). By changing a catalyst from the activated platinum catalyst to the activated palladium catalyst, the deuteration rates of hydrogen atoms and the isolation yield are dramatically increased from 93 % of hydrogen atoms at position (1) and 67 % at position (2) to 99 % at both (1) and (2) positions, and from 95 % of the isolation yield to 99 % (see example 2 in table 1 at page 31 and example 32 at page 40 of the specification). There is no reasonable basis to expect such results from the reference. Accordingly, claim 1 is distinguished from Dinh-Nguyen, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

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In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.



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Respectfully submitted,

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